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REMARKS

The Reply is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed June 28, 2006. Three (3) independent claims were pending at the time of the Office Action. Independent claims 44 and 52 are drawn to a SLIC and claim 60 is drawn to a method of operating a SLIC. In the Office Action, claims 44-46, 50-54, 58-62, 66 and 66 were rejected are rejected based on U.S. Patent No. 5,854,839 to Chen. Claims 47-49, 55-57 and 63-65 were found to be allowable if written in independent form.

Applicants and Applicants' counsel, the undersigned, wish to thank the Examiner for participating in a teleconference held on September 19, 2006. Prior to the teleconference, the undersigned provided a set of amended independent claims which incorporated the salient limitations recited in allowable claim 47 into claim 44, along with analogous amendments to independent claims 52 and 60. The Examiner determined the independent claims presented would be allowable and entered upon Applicants' filing of a Reply including the proposed claim amendments presented.

In this Reply, claims 44, 46, 48, 50-52, 60, 63 and 66 have been amended and claims 45, 47, 53, 54, 58, 59, 61 and 62 have been cancelled. Independent claims 44, 52 and 60 replicate the proposed claims, while the other claims were amended (and those cancelled) to harmonize with the independent claims as amended. No new matter has been added.

Accordingly, claims 44, 52 and 60 and their respective dependent claims (at least based on their dependency) are allowable claims. Applicant have made every effort to present claims which distinguish over the cited art, and it is believed that all claims are now in condition for allowance. However, Applicant requests that the Examiner call the undersigned if anything further is required by the Examiner prior to issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all claims.

No fee is believed due related to the filing of this amendment. However, if any fee is due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any such fee and any additional fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

Respectfully submitted,

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